Grooming Horses.

Every horse owner ought to know that good grooming is a great saving of feed. This is demonstrably true, if not in actual economy of oats and hay, at least in the horse's feeling, spirit, action and ability to travel or labor. It is real economy if we can get more go and labor by the use of a certain quantity of food with good grooming than without, for then with the same grooming the feed can be reduced. This is understood among horse-men the world over. I seldom groom my own horses, though I like to do it, as does every man who loves a horse; but it involves so much changing of clothes, and bathing, and disguising of odors by scented soap, etc., that I prefer to clean horses and stables by proxy. Lately, however, my good man-of-all-work was down with pneumonia, and I took hold. Of course I met with new experiences. One is, the knowledge of the value of an old stub-broom. One of the horses was very nervous about having the hind legs cleaned, and the stub-broom seemed almost as efficacious as a curry-comb and brush; indeed, the horses liked it. Within two days I could use brush or comb, or anything else I presume, without their flinching unless actually hurt. The broom was prepared by cutting off the corn about four inches beyond where it was corded.

Some months ago I picked up a wire "mane brush," made of steel wires about an inch long, set in a rubber plate in some way. They are quite stiff, but mobile in their setting. The men have not used it, or very little, if at all. They prefer a "root" brush for the mane and tail, and it is certainly very good. I notice that most men, in grooming a horse, draw the brush across the curry comb to remove the dust, with a little more vigor than they draw it over the horse. The result is, that the brush is soon worn out down to the back. I substituted the wire brush above noted for the curry comb, and the result is very satisfactory. The dandruff and dust are removed more thoroughly, and the brush hardly worn at all.

A horse which has been badly treated may be inclined to lift his foot viciously against the groom when working about his legs. When a cow kicks, we put a strap around her just in front of her hips. If she lifts her foot, the action of the stifle-joint is to cause a tightening of the skin in the flank, which is quite painful, and so she does not do it. Now if a man takes a horse's tail (provided it is long enough), and draws it through between the hind legs, and holds the end firmly in one hand just over the stifle, a horse can be controlled on the same principle. It makes a horse a little nervous and restless, however, and should be done so as not to give the animal any needless pain.—*Cor. American Agriculturist.*

Chief Engineer Melville.

Chief Engineer George W. Melville, who is making the hazardous and almost hopeless search for the missing boat and party of the Jeannette under command of Lieutenant Chipp, is a man of very striking appearance. He was born in New York, and in his young days his family was well known among the old Knickerbockers. He is a heavily-built man, weighing about 190 pounds, and is about five feet eleven inches in height. Of large and powerful frame, he is of light complexion and has bright, piercing blue eyes. He is supple and a skilled athlete. When he returned from the Arctic in the Tigress, in November, 1873, he visited the engineer's office in the Navy yard, and, when met by his brother officers, the natural question was asked: "Well, George, how do you feel?" He answered: "As bright as a new uniform, and I never felt better;" and, to prove his assertion, turned a handspring without the least difficulty. When serving his time in the machine-shop he could do more work in the same time than any other man, and when passing through the shop if he met an obstruction no higher than his shoulders he would spend no time in going around it, but would jump over it with the greatest ease.

—Fried Cucumbers: Peel and cut lengthwise in slices half an inch thick; spread on a little salt; lay in flour and fry in butter or pork fat till they are done. With fried mutton chops or veal cutlets laid between them, fried cucumbers make a delicious breakfast dish.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

—Plenty of stock and grass makes good land and large crops.

—If you have a garden, do not throw away the soapsuds from the laundry; keep it to use as fertilizer for your flower beds.—*N. Y. Post.*

—The plum should be allowed to become fully ripe before being picked, and the fruit will be finer as the tree has a more sunny exposure.

—The bee-keepers in Los Angeles and San Bernardina Counties, California, say there has never been a better prospect for a large yield of honey than now exists.

—Whatever he has done, or neglected to do, in the past, the farmer who has land which can properly be devoted to that purpose should make it a point this year to set a few fruit-trees.

—Baron Liebig says: "The only method by which you can possibly advance and develop agriculture is by experiments; that is the only plan; for there is no branch of industry so completely built up by experiment as agriculture."

—It is a curious fact that some twining plants, such as convolvulus, climbing-bean and morning-glory, twine to the right, and cannot be made to go the other way, while others, the hop, bryony and honeysuckle, twine to the left, and are equally persistent in that direction.—*N. Y. Examiner.*

—Market gardeners in the vicinity of Boston cultivate dandelions to sell for greens. The seed is sown every year, and the old roots destroyed. The plants stand about six inches apart, and they are gathered for market by cutting the roots with a sharp hoe just below the surface of the ground.

—In feeding a horse for a long journey do not give more than the regular quantity of food before starting, but only after the work is done. A horse that is regularly driven requires a very small amount of hay in the morning feed, if any, and none at the noon feed, and at night, just before closing the stable, fill the manger with hay.—*Chicago Journal.*

—Never put ginger snaps in a jar while they are hot; take them from the tins and lay them on plates to cool, otherwise they will steam and become moist and will not be crisp and brittle; other cookies will not need so long a cooling process, and cake which you wish to keep a week or ten days is improved by being wrapped in a towel while it is still in the tin; let it stand in this way for two or three hours.—*N. Y. Post.*

A Wonderful Horse.

There is a perceptible coolness between young Seabury, one of the most fashionable young men in Austin, and Gilhooly. Seabury owns a horse which he thinks is the finest horse in the world. Young Seabury was bragging about his horse to a crowd of acquaintances the other day, and he said, among other improbable things, that the horse went so fast on the previous day that he overtook a swallow, the horse's ear striking the bird.

"Are you sure the swallow was not coming from the opposite direction?" asked Gilhooly, with the air of a man who wanted to know.

"Of course he won't," was the indignant response.

"I reckon then the swallow wanted to build her nest in your horse's ear. The horse went so slow the swallow could not see he was moving. Wonderful hoss."—*Texas Sifting.*

A Farmer Under a Roller.

Robert Welch, a farmer living one mile east of town, was rolling a piece of plowed land the other day with a pair of oxen as the motive power. In some way he was caught under the roller, and the team stopped when half way over him. There they stood quietly chewing their cud until he had nearly dug himself out, when they deliberately started and pulled the roller up on his shoulders and stopped again. Their standing so long in one place attracted the attention of neighbors at work in an adjoining field, and they went over and relieved Welch from his unpleasant position. He had been under the roller for nearly an hour. He was not hurt, but very dusty, and hitching up his oxen went on with his work, but was careful not to get caught under that roller again with those oxen.—*Dover (Del.) Sentinel.*